

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 103437
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 103437

EXDIS DISTRIBUTE AS NODIS HOLD FOR THE SECRETARY

FOLLOWING REPEAT CAPE TOWN 789 ACTION SECSTATE, USUN NEW YORK,
INFO BONN, DAR ES SALAAM, GABORONE, LAGOS, LONDON, LUSAKA,
MAPUTO, OTTAWA, PARIS, AND PRETORIA DATED APRIL 20, 1978.

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L CAPE TOWN 789

EXDIS HANDLE AS NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV, PORG, WA, SF
SUBJECT: MEETING SAG CONCERN ABOUT FINAL TROOP WITHDRAWAL

REF: (A) USUN 1487, (B) USUN 1523, (C) SECTO 4095,

1. A KEY QUESTION IN CONSIDERING SAG CONCERN ABOUT THE
TROOP WITHDRAWAL ISSUE IS BOTHA'S OBJECTIVE AND MINIMUM
REQUIREMENT. ELEMENTS IN THE SAG AND IN NAMIBIA ARGUE THAT
THE PROVISION IN OUR PROPOSAL FOR FINAL WITHDRAWAL A WEEK
AFTER CERTIFICATION OF THE ELECTIONS WILL RESULT IN A
DANGEROUS SECURITY VACUUM. BOTHA MAY RECOGNIZE THAT THERE
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PAGE 02 STATE 103437

IS LITTLE SUBSTANCE TO THIS ARGUMENT GIVEN THE CONTINUING
UN FORCE IN THE TERRITORY DURING THIS PERIOD, THE
POSSIBILITY OF THE AG AND THE UNSR DECIDING TO INCREASE
POLICE UNITS AND THE MORAL FORCE OF INTERNATIONAL
SANCTION OF THE WESTERN PROPOSAL. NEVERTHELESS, BOTHA
APPARENTLY NEEDS MORE ASSURANCE ON THE QUESTION OF
SECURITY IN THE PERIOD FROM CERTIFICATION OF THE ELECTION

TO INDEPENDENCE IF HE IS TO BE ABLE TO SELL THE PROPOSAL
TO HIS CABINET COLLEAGUES AND THE DTA.

2. AS A MAXIMUM, BOTHA MIGHT HOPE FOR A STATEMENT ALONG THE
LINES OF THAT PROPOSED BY THE BRITISH (USUN 1534), WHICH WOULD
BIND THE PARTIES TO ACCEPT A CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION
AND WHICH "WOULD HAVE TO BE PUT FORWARD IN A MANNER THAT WOULD
ALLOW IT TO BE READ AS HAVING A STATUS SOMEWHAT ON A PAR TO THE
PROPOSAL ITSELF." (USUN 1487). WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THERE IS A
REASONABLE CHANCE BOTHA WOULD BE ABLE TO SETTLE FOR LESS.

3. BOTHA'S OBJECTIVES MIGHT BE SERVED BY ISSUANCE OF
(A) A STATEMENT BY THE WESTERN POWERS ALONG THE LINES
SUGGESTED BY USUN (USUN 1487, PARA 3) COMBINED WITH (B)
A PUBLIC ASSURANCE BY THE FIVE TO THE PEOPLE OF NAMIBIA
OF THEIR CONCERN WITH THE PEACE AND SECURITY OF THE
TERRITORY DURING THE ENTIRE TRANSITION PERIOD.

4. AS USUN HAS NOTED, HOWEVER, EVEN ITS SUGGESTED
LANGUAGE ON THE IMPLICATIONS OF A CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY
RESOLUTION COULD CREATE POSSIBLY SERIOUS PROBLEMS
WITH SWAPO AND THE SAG. CONSEQUENTLY, THE CONTACT
GROUP MAY WISH TO CONSIDER AN ALTERNATIVE WHICH WOULD
AVOID SAYING ANYTHING FURTHER ON THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY
ISSUE. THIS ALTERNATIVE WOULD INCLUDE: (1) A STATEMENT
BY THE WESTERN POWERS REGARDING THEIR INTEREST IN THE PEACE
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PAGE 03 STATE 103437

AND SECURITY OF THE TERRITORY WHICH WOULD INCLUDE A DECLARATION
THAT THE WESTERN POWERS WOULD VIEW WITH GRAVE CONCERN
EFFORTS BY ANY PARTY TO VIOLATE PEACE IN THE TERRITORY
DURING THE ENTIRE TRANSITION PERIOD; AND (2) EFFORTS
TO OBTAIN FROM THE FRONT LINE STATES, ANGOLA AND
NIGERIA A DECLARATION OF SUPPORT FOR THE SETTLEMENT
PROPOSAL AND AN UNDERTAKING TO RECOGNIZE THE DULY-ELECTED
CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY AS REPRESENTING THE WILL OF THE
PEOPLE OF NAMIBIA.

5. SUCH DECLARATIONS BY THE WESTERN POWERS AND THE AFRICAN
STATES COULD IN FACT BE MORE REASSURING THAN A VAGUE NON-
BINDING FORMULATION ON THE AUTHORITY OF CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY
RESOLUTIONS.

NELSON UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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